transmitting a broadcast frame that indicates that wireless devices within the group are allowed to use the communication medium during the period.

**[0009]** In a further exemplary embodiment, an apparatus includes one or more processors and one or more memories including computer program code. The one or more memories and the computer program code configured, with the one or more processors, to cause the apparatus to perform at least the following: transmitting a first frame from an access node of a first access network having a first coverage area to a wireless device; receiving a second frame from the wireless device indicating a reception power of the first frame; determining a group for the wireless device based at least partly on the indicated reception power; transmitting a third frame to the wireless device indicating the determined group; receiving a fourth frame from a second access network having a second coverage area that overlaps with the first coverage area, the fourth frame indicating that communication medium access by wireless devices in the second access network is confined to a subset of wireless devices of the second access network wherein the subset has a third coverage area smaller than the second coverage area and indicating a period during which the those wireless devices in the second access network are able to access the communication medium; determining that wireless devices within the group are allowed to use, during the period, the communication medium simultaneously with use of the communication medium by those wireless devices in the second access network; and transmitting a broadcast frame that indicates that wireless devices within the group are allowed to use the communication medium during the period.

**[0010]** In another exemplary embodiment, a method includes receiving at a wireless device a first frame from an access node and transmitting a second frame from the wireless device toward the access node indicating a reception power of the first frame. The method includes receiving a third frame from the access node indicating an assigned group and receiving a broadcast frame that indicates a period and that indicates wireless devices within one or more groups are allowed to contend for access to a communication medium during the period. The method further includes determining whether the assigned group is the same as one of the one or more groups and based on the determining, one of contending or not contending for access to the communication medium during the period.

**[0011]** In an additional exemplary embodiment, an apparatus includes: means for receiving at a wireless device a first frame from an access node; means for transmitting a second frame from the wireless device toward the access node indicating a reception power of the first frame; means for receiving a third frame from the access node indicating an assigned group; means for receiving a broadcast frame that indicates a period and that indicates wireless devices within one or more groups are allowed to contend for access to a communication medium during the period; means for determining whether the assigned group is the same as one of the one or more groups; and means for based on the determining, one of contending or not contending for access to the communication medium during the period.

**[0012]** In an additional exemplary embodiment, a computer program product comprises a computer-readable storage medium bearing computer program code embodied therein for use with a computer. The computer program code comprises: code for receiving at a wireless device a first frame from an access node; code for transmitting a second frame from the wireless device toward the access node indicating a reception power of the first frame; code for receiving a third frame from the access node indicating an assigned group; code for receiving a broadcast frame that indicates a period and that indicates wireless devices within one or more groups are allowed to contend for access to a communication medium during the period; code for determining whether the assigned group is the same as one of the one or more groups; and code for based on the determining, one of contending or not contending for access to the communication medium during the period.

**[0013]** In a further exemplary embodiment, an apparatus includes one or more processors and one or more memories including computer program code. The one or more memories and the computer program code configured, with the one or more processors, to cause the apparatus to perform at least the following: receiving at a wireless device a first frame from an access node; transmitting a second frame from the wireless device toward the access node indicating a reception power of the first frame; receiving a third frame from the access node indicating an assigned group; receiving a broadcast frame that indicates a period and that indicates wireless devices within one or more groups are allowed to contend for access to a communication medium during the period; determining whether the assigned group is the same as one of the one or more groups; and based on the determining, one of contending or not contending for access to the communication medium during the period.

**[0014]** A further exemplary embodiment is a method comprising receiving, at a wireless device in a first access network formed by a first access node, from a second access node a broadcast frame that indicates a minimum received power above which wireless devices in a second access network formed by the second access node are allowed to contend for access to a communication medium. The method further comprises, based on a comparison of measured power of transmission from the second access node with the minimum received power, one of contending for access to the communication medium or not contending for access to the communication medium.

**[0015]** An exemplary apparatus comprises: means for receiving, at a wireless device in a first access network formed by a first access node, from a second access node a broadcast frame that indicates a minimum received power above which wireless devices in a second access network formed by the second access node are allowed to contend for access to a communication medium; and means for based on a comparison of measured power of transmission from the second access node with the minimum received power, one of contending for access to the communication medium or not contending for access to the communication medium.

**[0016]** In an additional exemplary embodiment, a computer program product comprises a computer-readable storage medium bearing computer program code embodied therein for use with a computer. The computer program code comprises: receiving, at a wireless device in a first access network formed by a first access node, from a second access node a broadcast frame that indicates a minimum received power above which wireless devices in a second access network formed by the second access node are allowed to contend for access to a communication medium; and based on a comparison of measured power of transmission from the second access node with the minimum received power, one of con-